In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 12 as indicated below. The status of all pending claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A wheel comprising a disk and a rim for mounting a pneumatic tire joined to a peripheral edge of the disk, the rim having inboard and outboard cylindrical bead seats with a hump which protrudes on one of said bead seats and inboard and outboard annular rim flanges joined to and extending radially outward from outer side edges of the bead seats,

wherein a solid single ring-like element, extending along a circumferential direction of the wheel, is provided on a portion of the bead seat located between the hump of the inboard cylindrical bead seat and the inboard annular rim flange of the rim, wherein said ring-like element increases the natural frequency of the wheel such that the natural frequency of the wheel is in a frequency band higher than a frequency band of a pneumatic tire mounted thereon,

wherein a cross-section area of the ring-like element is 0.1 to 4.0 times larger than the cross-section area represented by a product (E×T) in a radial cross section taken along a plane which passes through an axis of rotation of the wheel, wherein (E) is a sum of a thickness (Ft) of the rim flange located on the inner side of a vehicle when attached thereto and a wheel width direction length (Ew) of the bead seat portion, and (T) is a thickness of a portion of the rim body adjacent to the hump of the inboard cylindrical bead seat,

wherein said single ring-like element is provided only on the portion of the bead seat located on an inboard side of the wheel when the wheel is mounted on a vehicle, and

further wherein said single ring-like element protrudes inwardly from a radially inner surface of said rim, and said single ring-like element is the only ring-like element provided on said radially inner surface of said rim.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 1, wherein the ring-like element is provided on a radially inner side of an outer side end of the bead seat portion opposed to the rim flange.

4. (Withdrawn- Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 1, wherein the ring-like element is unitarily formed on a radially inner side of the bead seat portion.

5. (Withdrawn- Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 1, wherein the ring-like element is formed from a ring member which is fixed to a radially inner side of the bead seat portion.

6. (Withdrawn- Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 5, wherein the ring member is formed of a material which is lower in specific gravity and/or has a rigidity higher than that of the bead seat.

7. (Withdrawn- Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 6, wherein the ring member is formed of an alloy of magnesium.

8. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 1 wherein the disk and the rim are formed of lightweight metal.

9. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 8, wherein the lightweight metal is an alloy of aluminum or magnesium.

10. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 1, wherein said inboard annular rim flange includes an inboard facing surface that is generally co-planar with an inboard facing surface of said single ring-like element.

11. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 10, wherein said co-planar surface of said single ring-like element and said inboard annular rim flange extend in a direction generally orthogonal to a center axis of rotation of the wheel.

12. (Currently Amended) A wheel comprising a disk and a rim for mounting a pneumatic tire joined to a peripheral edge of the disk, the rim having inboard and outboard cylindrical bead seats with a hump which protrudes on one of said bead seats and inboard and outboard annular rim flanges joined to and extending radially outward from outer side edges of the bead seats,

wherein a ring-like element extending along a circumferential direction of the wheel is provided on a portion of the bead seat located between the hump of the inboard cylindrical bead seat and the inboard annular rim flange of the rim,

wherein said inboard annular rim flange includes a radially-extending inboard-facing surface that is ~~generally~~ continuously and completely co-planar with a radially-extending inboard-facing surface that extends along the entire radial length of said ring-like element,

wherein a cross-section area of the ring-like element is 0.1 to 4.0 times larger than the cross-section area represented by a product (E×T) in a radial cross section taken along a plane which passes through an axis of rotation of the wheel, wherein (E) is a sum of a thickness (Ft) of the rim flange located on the inner side of a vehicle when attached thereto and a wheel width direction length (Ew) of the bead seat portion, and (T) is a thickness of a portion of the rim body adjacent to the hump of the inboard cylindrical bead seat, and

wherein said ring-like element is provided only on the portion of the bead seat located on an inboard side of the wheel when the wheel is mounted on a vehicle.

13. (Previously Presented) A wheel according to claim 1, wherein said co-planar surfaces of said ring-like element and said inboard annular rim flange extend in a direction generally orthogonal to a center axis of rotation of the wheel.